Prober Wants Assassination Papers Opened

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with
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Washington — Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY) will attempt to lay open hundreds of assassination documents hidden for the past 12 years.

In earlier columns, we revealed that the FBI had withheld from the Warren Commission many documents dealing with the John F. Kennedy assassination.

Investigators for Mrs. Abzug's government information subcommittee also have learned that the National Archives has held back numerous Warren Commission documents from the public, including the minutes of two of the commission's 12 executive sessions.

One of the suppressed transcripts contains an analytical discussion by psychiatrists of Lee Harvey Oswald's conduct and motives. The assassin's relationship with his wife was discussed in such explicit terms that the Archives felt the transcript violated the Oswalds' privacy.

THE OTHER TRANSCRIPT, involving Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union, was based on statements by a Soviet defector, Yuri Nosenko. It was withheld at the request of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Similar requests from federal agencies have kept secret 142 other items at the Archives, including 95 from the FBI, 24 from the CIA and smaller numbers from the State Department, Secret Service and Internal Revenue Service.

Other internal memos, betraying the timidity of the Warren Commission and the failure of its staff to follow up leads, also were never released.

Those familiar with the suppressed documents insist they contain no evidence that would change the commission's verdict that Oswald acted alone. On the contrary, some insiders believe the documents would clear up questions that have been raised and would help end the wild specualtion over the Kennedy assassination.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS are sizing up Donald Rumsfeld, the new choice for defense secretary, as a vice presidential possibility.

At age 43, he is articulate and photogenic. He has demonstrated as the White House chief of staff that he also is an able administrator. Most of all, he has a style that has caused admiring politicians to refer to him as the Republican John F. Kennedy.

We have indications that President Ford hasn't spoken to Rumsfeld about becoming his running mate next year, but some White House aides are whispering about the possibility.

Mr. Ford has had his eye on Rumsfeld ever since moving into the White House. As we reported Oct. 8, 1974, the President then had Rumsfeld "in mind to be the next secretary of defense."

We reported a year ago, however, that Mr. Ford "needed someone in a hurry to replace Alexander Haig, who had headed President Nixon's White House staff. The President, therefore, summoned Rumsfeld."

We added that "Ford still intends to send the able Rumsfeld to preside over the Pentagon." We noted that "the President's plans for Rumsfeld, of course, mean Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger will be dropped from the cabinet. This will be a victory for Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who has been feuding with Schlesinger over foreign-military policy."

OUR REPORT of a year ago has now come true. The Pentagon, of course, can be a tough test for any administrator. Rumsfeld himself remarked ruefully to a friend:

"The Pentagon is like a log covered with ants floating down the river. Each ant thinks he's driving it."

But those who know Rumsfeld believe he will emerge from the Pentagon as a political star and vice presidential prospect.